

IT'S GREAT TO BE ALIVE

And so the sentiments are clear; the affirmation set
Knowing what we put out there is what we will
ultimately get

Recalling glimmers of visuals out of the murky haze
Holding close to heart all of our previous nights and
days

Dreams of the past and future, memories of a life
"The universe is perfect – it's great to be alive"

Coming into focus, names of yore from so far back
George Coulton, George Hutchings, Norm Zauchin,
Jerry Kanack

Ricky Smith, Dick Sullivan, John Tyson, Marc
Reymont

Friends and family – what more could anyone really
want?

History: born in Detroit, father James and mother
Mary

Sisters Amy and Barbara, later came the military
A reluctant student of economics, still you passed
the test

Then came the unlikely insurance – it even took you
out west

But first came destiny, God's good grace, fortune
and luck

All from a stapler in a drawer ... it was stuck
A vacation, the same weekend, taken together
A marriage – July 31, 1954 – that would last forever
1959 Redondo, 1962 Cambay Lane – following the
road traveled less

Mary Lynn, Jimmy, Kathy, Emily, Monique, Emmett,
Grace and Tess

Christmas mornings – waking up to half-eaten
cookies on the hearth

Lawrence Welk, Hee Haw, Mary Tyler Moore, Carol
Burnett and Bob Newhart

Slurpees, Jack in the Box balloons, McDonalds,
Cocos, Carrows

Skinny Buffet, Apple Appeal, Jon's, Tijuana Tacos,
Sambos

Japanese Dear Park, Santa's Village, Mt. Wilson,
Jungleland

Sea World, Knott's Berry Farm, Magic Mountain,
Wild Animal Park, Disneyland

All the places, every summer, in and out of traffic,
where we've been

Familiar stories told over and over ... and over again
Meditation in the 70s, circle star one thousand and
three ... relax



Farmers Insurance, claims and fraud, each and
every photostat

Coming home with boxes, angry at the ringing
phone while "on call"

Concerned over sniper fire at the front door and
protecting us all

JFK, Coast to Coast, Art Bell and mystic Dollee
Doing the picks, bags of scratch offs, the winning
lottery

Prairie Home Companion, Celtic Thunder, cassette
tapes, ON TV

Bowling balls, bags, leagues, tournaments and
trophies

The carwash donuts, Black Panther fireworks, the
"Family Pack"

Ragamuffin, Cosworth, Nicky, Rags, Fidrych, and
Lucy the cat

Dan Meade over for football, the Miracle on
Manchester game

The Rams always losing to the Vikings in bad
weather – so lame

Long drives in the car, everyone asleep but me in
the back seat

The habit you had of cleaning your ears with a car
key

Cooking chicken noodle soup all the way to the end
Super Bowl VII, in 67 and 73 the trips to Michigan

Since I was sick, you took me to a store to get
sherbet and some pop

Once got me a Dodger t-shirt after collecting those
Pepsi soda tops

The amazing homerun by Kirk Gibson – man, what
a shock

A call from Bete, those late night metaphysical talks
Each memory – a gift from a surreal world, so
sublime

Tears when Mary Lynn left home that very first time
Yes visions of the past, present and future,
memories of a life

Remembering always: the universe is perfect ... it's
great to be alive